

DRAFT

Minutes

**Rail Advisory Board Meeting
Forum Room
Science Museum of Virginia
2500 W. Broad Street
Richmond, VA
October 11, 2007**

Note – At the direction of the Board and the Director of DRPT, these summary minutes will only reflect Action Items and Informational Requests to the Agency from the Board.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wiley Mitchell Jr., Chairman
Gregory Marston
Bruno Maestri
James Keen
Dwight Farmer

Sharon Bulova
Richard Beadles
Peter Shudtz
Trenton Crewe

Matthew Tucker, Director, DRPT

Call to Order

The Rail Advisory Board Meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chairman Mitchell.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

A motion to accept the October 11, 2007 agenda was made by Mrs. Bulova and seconded by Mr. Studtz. The motion carried without opposition.

Adoption of Minutes

A motion to accept the July 12, 2007 minutes was made by Mr. Studtz and seconded by Mr. Beadles. The motion carried without opposition.

Confirmation of Vice-Chair

Dwight Farmer, speaking for the Nominating Committee, nominated Mr. Trenton Crewe for Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Peter Shudtz and carried without opposition.

Public Comment

Public comments were received from Nancy Finch with Women in Transportation Seminar, and Daniel Plaughter with Virginians for High Speed Rail.

Director's Update

Matthew Tucker, Director, DRPT, updated the board on the progress of the Rail Enhancement Fund projects that are under agreement or are under way. Mr. Tucker also spoke of the re-organization of DRPT staff and Agency meetings held to discuss high profile projects.

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Rail Advisory Board Accomplishments

As requested by Chairman Mitchell, Director Tucker updated the Board on all the accomplishments of the RAB. The members of the Board asked Director Tucker questions regarding projects and how funding decisions are made.

RAB Legislative Recommendations

The Board discussed the recommendations made by member Beadles in his August 3 communication to Director Tucker. Mr. Beadles made a motion to support the 30% Match recommendation, based on the language of the 2007 SB1348, seconded by Ms. Bulova. The Board voted 7-2 to approve with Mr. Keen and Mr. Maestri dissenting. .

The establishment of a Rail Development Authority was also discussed, but action on this recommendation was postponed.

Passenger Rail Performance Update

Jason Maga, Senior Officer of Host Railroad Policy for Amtrak and Mr. Dale Zehner, CEO of VRE, updated the Board on both passenger rail systems' performance and the reduction of delays.

Virginia Statewide Multimodal Freight Study

Kevin Page, Chief of Rail Transportation, and Dr. Mary Lynn Tischer, Director of the Virginia Multimodal Office, briefed the Board on the Multimodal Freight Study and the I-81 weigh stations survey.

Overview of Informational Items

Mr. Page provided an overview of the informational items provided to the Board in their notebooks.

2008 Meeting Schedule and Nominating Committee for Chair/Vice-Chair

The Chairman requested Kevin Page and staff to research the availability of the SMV facility and check with the other members of the Board, and pick a date, preferably in the first week of February for the Board to meet again. Mr. Keen made a motion to move the April meeting to April 3, and have a meeting in February at a date to be selected, preferably during the first week. Ms. Bulova seconded the motion and it carried without opposition.

Chairman Mitchell appointed Ms. Bulova, Mr. Farmer and Mr. Keen to a committee to look into the election and term length for the Chair and Vice-Chair.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.